

## Postings

From the New Trier High School Post-High School Counseling Office  
For Members of the 2018 Graduating Class  
August, 2017

You still have one month of summer left, but even so, your thoughts may gradually be shifting toward summer reading assignments or back-to-school shopping; here are some things to consider for your re-entry to school from the post-high school planning perspective.

Because of the late start this year, the post-high school counselors are available on a drop-in basis only at Winnetka the weeks of August 21 and August 28 from 8-noon and 1-3PM; because only half the staff will be in either week, you can consult with any available counselor.

Also because of our late state, the College Application Processing Night for all seniors and their parents on Thursday, August 31 from 7:00 – 8:15 PM in the Cornog Auditorium of the Northfield Campus. Updates on college admission and important information about applying will be presented.

The process of applying for need-base financial aid changed significantly last year, so plan to attend New Trier's financial aid night on Thursday, September 28 from 7:00 -8:30 PM in the Cornog Auditorium of the Northfield Campus. Additional information about these changes is included at the end of this newsletter.

Summer hours are dwindling for post-high school counselors in the office, so if you wish to make a summer appointment, please check your counselor's availability on the chart on the New Trier post-high school webpage. **Then do not email your counselor, but call Mrs. Perlongo weekdays between 8-noon and 1:00 to 3:00 PM at 847/784-2234.**

Here are the dates and times of the Common Application workshops and the essay seminars remaining for the summer.

Attend an essay seminar to get ready to complete any required writing for college. Seminars are all held in the C Building of the Northfield campus, room 234 (the board room) EXCEPT for Tuesday, August 28 when the seminar will be in room C301 at the Northfield Campus; these run a little over one hour. Bring a pencil or pen and your rapt attention, and you will be given information, suggestions, and small projects to complete to make the essay task less ominous. These last just over one hour and no registration is necessary.

Remaining dates and time for the essay seminar are:

Monday, August 7, C234 at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, August 8, C234 at 1:30 PM

Thursday, August 17, C234 at 10:30 AM\*

Tuesday, August 22, C234 at 10:30 AM\*

Thursday, August 24, C234 at 10:30 AM\*

Tuesday, August 29, at 10:30 AM\* – moved to C301 Northfield

Thursday, August 31, C234 at 10:30 AM\*

*\*Coordinated with a Common Application Workshop in the same location at 1:00PM*

Also consider attending a Common Application workshop; held either on Thursday afternoons August 3 and 10 in the B Building of Northfield at 1:00 and 2:00PM (choose only one) or coordinated with the essay seminars above in C234 or, on August 28, in C301. At any of these programs, you will register yourself, complete the New Trier-specific information and add your recommenders. Just show up ready to work!

**Bring your own laptop or iPad on which to work.**

Dates and times are:

Thursday, August 3, B Building at either 1:00 or 2:00PM– choose one

Thursday, August 10, B Building at either 1:00 or 2:00PM – choose one

Thursday, August 17, C234 at 1:00PM

Tuesday, August 22, C234 at 1:00PM

Thursday, August 24, C234 at 1:00PM

Tuesday, August 29, C301 at 1:00PM

And speaking of the Common Application, it is not unusual for teachers not to check email over the summer. Do not panic if you email a teacher and do not receive a response. Please make sure if your recommender had a background form for you to complete that you do so over the summer and email it to your teacher with your thanks. *A copy of the post-high school form is located in your white, post-high school binder in the bright yellow section – you should review that section for process information.*

Emailing invitations to your post-high school counselor does not meet federal requirements for your permission to send official documents. Students must still complete a required transcript request form before any transcripts will be submitted; transcripts cannot be sent immediately because New Trier waits three to four days to make sure the senior schedule is correct and can then be included on the transcript, and then your counselor needs to wait for transcripts to be put in electronic format for uploading.

Remember that colleges will take either an ACT or an SAT; there is no preference. If you are done testing, and you know where you will apply and which test scores you wish to send, you may go directly to the testing sites at any time to order your scores to be sent to colleges. If you are not sure, do not worry – you still have plenty of time to retest and talk with your post-high school counselor about what to send!

Once your fall schedule arrives in the mail, give Mrs. Perlongo a call at 784-2234 to set up an appointment with your post-high school counselor during one of your free periods. **Do not email your post-high school counselor for an appointment.**

Soon, your messages inbox on Naviance will be purged. The program typically deletes them in August to clear the way for the new year. If you wish to print the essays sent in the email to you – essays confirmed for your graduating year, so you can begin to work on them ahead of the fall – please print the June newsletter as soon as possible.

Please make sure your Naviance list reflects the colleges in which you are still interested, and that you have appropriate safety schools, financial and otherwise. Under your student account, delete any schools you no longer wish to consider, and add any new schools.

That way you will not be unnecessarily bothered when we notify you of college representative visits.

When college representatives visit New Trier, typically beginning in mid-September and running through early November, you will receive an email of the visit from a representative whose school is on your Naviance list approximately four days before the visit.

If the visit occurs during a class period, you must speak to your teacher to pre-arrange any absence from a class to meet with a college representative. It is up to the teacher to determine if you can be excused from class to meet with a representative. If you have an exam that period, for instance, you should be in class and can email the representative through Naviance's contact information to let him or her know that you were unable to miss class that day. This is very common and perfectly acceptable; no college representative will penalize your application because you missed a visit at your school!

Changes in applying for need-based financial aid that began last year are vital to understand to make sure your student receives what he or she may qualify to have!!! As of last year, the federal government uses the parent and student income information from 2016 for completing the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. *As a result, the FAFSA will be available as of October first, 2017, for students going to college in 2018.*

Even though the form says you have until July to complete and submit the form, money is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and colleges run out of money every year.

Therefore, it is essential that if you think your student might qualify for need-based financial aid that you and your student complete the form as close to October first as possible; and, if you have already filed your federal income taxes in April of 2017, we encourage you to authorize the FAFSA to use the Internal Revenue Service's DRT or Data Retrieval Tool. By using the DRT, you are authorizing the FAFSA to reach into your 2016 tax forms to automatically pull specific income information that will be electronically input onto your student's FAFSA. The DRT was shut down last year in January, but is up and secured against hacking this year.

Using the DRT provides more accurate information in the FAFSA and streamlines the process for applying for aid.

The student aid specialists at the Illinois Students Assistance Commission believe that Illinois funding, if allocated this year, will run out for any aid candidates who do not file their FAFSA before Thanksgiving. *This only pertains to students who will attend college in Illinois. State money will not be allocated to any school not in Illinois.*

The FAFSA requires that one parent and the student apply for an FSA ID at this web address (please cut and paste this link in your browser): <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

It may take 24 hours to verify your FSA ID, and this can be completed at any time now to expedite the process. Please store your FSA ID in a secure but accessible location.

*We know this is a lot of information, and hope you will try to enjoy the rest of your summer, too!!*